

Midwest and the Northeast, they need to know that they have this money and how much so they can get started with projects now. The season is going to get away from them. So I hope every Senator will keep that in mind and allow us to get this to completion.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. I would like to say to all Senators, with regard to the week we are coming back. I have been discussing this with Senator DASCHLE. When we complete this infrastructure transportation bill, ISTEA II, and dispose of that, that will be the last vote or action of this week, other than doing some Executive Calendar matters we are trying to clear. The next vote will not occur until Tuesday when we come back. That would be June 2. But when we return on Monday, June 1, we will continue to debate the tobacco bill, and the pending issue is the Durbin amendment. Of course, there are other amendments that are pending. We will be talking back and forth over the next week as to exactly how the process will go forward.

On that Tuesday, the 2nd, the Senate will conduct a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the nuclear waste bill, which I will put in place in the next few minutes, as well as amendment votes relative to the tobacco legislation.

I do want to emphasize, the nuclear waste issue we intend to double track. That is one where we can take an action and then come off of that and go, then, to other legislation, the tobacco legislation. And it will take a period of days to get through the process we have to go on, on nuclear waste. But that is not intended to take the place of either the tobacco bill or the Department of Defense authorization bill. It will be double tracking as we go forward.

So I expect the Senate will be considering the tobacco bill and the nuclear waste bill during the first week in June. If problems arise with regard to either one of those, the other issue that we have already done some work on, and we want to go back to at the first opportunity, would be the Department of Defense authorization bill. We need to get that completed so we can then go to the appropriations side of the defense bill. I know that first week back will be a busy one because we have a lot of important work to do. We will be in session on Monday, but we will not have recorded votes on that Monday.

Senator DASCHLE, did you want to comment or ask a question on that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. I appreciate the information the majority leader has just shared. I think that is certainly in keeping with the understanding that he and I have had in our private discussions now for some time. My hope is that we can come back and complete

our work on the tobacco bill. I believe that is certainly within our reach.

I understand, because of the plethora of other bills that are on the calendar, we have to begin consideration of other issues. We have some amendments and bills that we want to raise at some point as well. But I think this schedule accommodates the demands that we are going to have on our schedule for the balance of the month of June, and I am hopeful that we can see the same level of cooperation on both sides of the aisle with that schedule that we have had over the course of the last 2 or 3 weeks.

I certainly have no objections to proceeding as the majority leader has suggested, certainly with the expectation that we will complete our work on the tobacco bill early when we come back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now turn to consideration of Calendar No. 312, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. In light of the objection, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 312 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provision of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 312, H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act:

Trent Lott, Frank H. Murkowski, Chuck Hagel, Slade Gorton, Pat Roberts, Olympia J. Snowe, Jon Kyl, Tim Hutchinson, Rod Grams, Spencer Abraham, Pete Domenici, Bill Roth, Don Nickles, Thad Cochran, Michael B. Enzi, Charles Grassley.

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed is withdrawn.

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, the cloture vote will occur on Tuesday, June 20, at a time to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the minority leader.

I ask unanimous consent the live quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORITY TO FILE REPORTED ITEMS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, May

27, the committees have from the hours 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in order to file legislative or executive reported items.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. 981

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the report to accompany S. 981, the Regulatory Improvement Act of 1998, be star printed, with changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA AND THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA ON 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 372, S. Res. 172.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The resolution (S. Res. 172) congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 172) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 172

Whereas February 4, 1998, is the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from Britain;

Whereas the present constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been in existence since August 16, 1978, and guarantees universal suffrage; and

Whereas the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United States share many values, including a common belief in democratic principles, a commitment to international cooperation, and promotion of enhanced trade and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence;

(2) expresses best wishes to the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as they celebrate their national day of independence on February 4, 1998; and

(3) looks forward to continued cooperation and friendship with the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the years ahead.